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50th Anniversary of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment and Tribute to Birch Bayh

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paid family leave and affordable higher education and greater representation in this very Chamber.

I invite every Senator to do the same, both because those are the right battles and because fighting them protects gender equality progress that has been hard-won by the women of this Nation. We must not allow those victories to be reversed. We must keep progressing.

This Women’s History Month, I am reminded of words that the poet G.D. Anderson once said: “Feminism is not about making women strong. Women are already strong. It’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength.” Let us remember it is precisely that strength that has propelled our world forward. It is precisely that strength that serves as the foundation of so many of this country’s successes, and it is precisely that strength we must remember and meet with our own, when women’s rights are under siege.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT AND TRIBUTE TO BIRCH BAYH

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment and recognize one of my predecessors from Indiana in the U.S. Senate, Birch Bayh. Birch Bayh represented Indiana in the Senate, from 1963 to 1981. Senator Bayh was an accomplished lawyer, legislator, and the only non-Founding Father to draft two amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were enacted.

February 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. The 25th Amendment created an orderly transition of power in the case of death or disability of the President and a transition of power in the case of death or disability of the President and a vacancy occurs in that office. The amendment was first relied upon following the resignations of Vice President Spiro Agnew and President Richard Nixon. It also provided the basis for President Reagan to temporarily pass his duties to Vice President George H. Bush when President Reagan underwent surgery.

While we all hope not to have to use the 25th Amendment, having an established process that continues to guide administrations faced with unexpected challenges is essential for any functional democracy. Senator Bayh played a key leadership role in the Senate by drafting this constitutional amendment and ensuring all necessary steps were taken for its successful adoption in 1967.

Senator Bayh also drafted the 26th Amendment, which changed the voting age from 21 to 18. Its impetus was the passage of amendments to the Voting Rights Act in 1970 that set 18 as the minimum voting age for both Federal and State elections. When the Supreme Court ruled in Oregon v. Mitchell that the law applied only to Federal, not State, elections, Congress adopted the 26th Amendment over 17 months later, on July 1, 1971, three-fourths of the States had ratified the amendment, making it the quickest amendment ever to be adopted.

In addition to these two constitutional amendments, Senator Bayh wrote the landmark title IX to the Higher Education Act, which mandates equal opportunities for women students and faculty. Senator Bayh was also an architect of the Juvenile Justice Act of 1974, which requires the separation of juvenile offenders from adult prison populations, and he played a vital role in the drafting and passage of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Since leaving the Senate in 1980, Senator Bayh has committed himself to leadership in civic policy. He has served as chairman of the University of Virginia’s Miller Center Commission on Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment, and as a member of the center’s Commission on Federal Judicial Selection. He is also founding chairman of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, a nonprofit, first-of-its kind organization dedicated to studying prejudice and hate crimes.

Senator Bayh, as you and your wife, Kitty, enjoy your retirement, the contributions you have made to our country endure. The indelible mark you have made on the orderly transition of power and preservation of justice is still celebrated with pride today as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 25th Amendment. Recently, the American Bar Association honored you with a Presidential citation for exhibiting the highest standards of public service as a lawyer and for extraordinary leadership on issues of law and justice, including the 25th Amendment. You are richly deserving of these accolades, as well as the gratitude of this Senate and the American people, for your lifetime of service.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HERBERT “HAWK” CARLISLE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to express my sincere thanks to General Carlisle for his distinguished service to our country and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement. I wish General Carlisle and his family all the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 584. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for certain projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1177. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1214. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes.